German and Pennsylvania German Surnames

By DAVID B. KAUFMAN

Have you ever wondered how or when your family name originated? Remember that Adam and Eve had no surname. For a thousand years after the birth of Christ and for all time prior to that no one had a family name, except the Chinese and the Romans who, being more systematic, saw the need for surnames. Caesar's full name was Gaius Julius Caesar. In Latin, the second name designated the clan to which one belonged, while the third was the family name — a clan was composed of many families. With the complete collapse of the Roman empire in 476 A.D. family names again were non-existent anywhere in the western world.

In very early times each person had only one name which was bestowed upon him at birth or shortly thereafter —today we call it his "first" or "Christian" or "given" name. This was true of the early Hebrews, Greeks, and Germans. That name had some meaning. The same is true of family names. In fact, there is a reason or story in back of every name, whether of a person, a place, an object, or an idea.

This single given name was sufficient as long as men lived in small isolated tribal groups but, as the population grew and many bore the same name, people began to add some qualifying term, such as the birthplace of the bearer or the name of the father or an epithet, e.g. James, the son of Zebedee; Jesus of Nazareth; Paul of Tarsus; or Attila, the Hun. This helped to distinguish one James or Paul from another. But this was not the final answer and it did not show family connections and relationships.

As the so-called Dark Ages (approximately 476 to 1000 A.D.) came to a close, commerce and communication were restored, the isolation of manor life with each castle an independent unit was broken down, and large cities grew up, so that there might be several hundred Peters and Jameses and Pauls in a city without street numbers or addresses. Also at this time the Crusades (starting in 1096 and continuing for about two centuries) were inaugurated which brought large groups of people together in western Europe, who traveled on foot to the Holy Land in a military expedition to recover it from the Mohammedans. But with the system of nomenclature then in vogue there was great difficulty in distinguishing one from another. In desperation a solution had to be found and the best one was surnames (surmeans 'on' or 'in addition to') or family names.

In Germany there was another reason for surnames, besides those just mentioned. There were many more personal names used there originally, many of which had disappeared by the 11th century. After Christianity was accepted (Germany was not Christianized completely until about 800 A.D.) Christian names were adopted for personal names but they were not nearly so numerous as the old heathen names which had been discarded but not forced out by the former, as some think, since there was a gap of a few generations until Christian names were adopted. So it became imperative to adopt family names to distinguish between persons who also were becoming more numerous. Much the same happened in Britain after the Norman conquest of 1066 when a few Christian names like John, James, and Paul were introduced in place of the far-more-numerous pagan names which had been abandoned.

Very shortly before the year 1000 A.D. family names began to be used in Europe, at first by the nobility, which was later imitated by the peasants gradually, first in the cities and last in the hinterlands. Italy was first, then France, England, and Germany, in that order. But this innovation took hold slowly and surnames were not generally in use anywhere until the end of the 14th century. At first some families assumed one surname and later changed to another, or the father and son did not carry the same name, e.g. Karl (the) Miller had a son called John (the) Baker. The Jews were slow to adopt surnames and did so only under compulsion by the authorities — in Austria in 1784, in France in 1803, in Prussia in 1812, etc. The Scandinavian countries held out the longest — Denmark until 1850.

The first time and place we meet with a German family name is in Zurich about 1150 A.D., but this innovation and practice was not completely accepted everywhere in Germany until the 19th century. The chief formation time of surnames occurred in western Germany in the 13th century and in the eastern part in the 14th.

Some German family names are found in several variations because they originated in different parts of the country, with their different dialects. For example, **Miller** is common in northern Germany, **Moeller** in central, and **Mueller** in southern Germany — all being different forms of the same name and identical in meaning. Thus one can often tell from what part of Germany an immigrant came, provided no changes in the name were made after arrival here. Likewise we can often determine by the name whether the immigrant ancestor came from Germany, Switzerland, or France. But the Huguenots — French Protestants of the 16th and 17th centuries, many of whom because of persecution fled first to the Rhineland before coming to America several generations later — are often most difficult to identify, because their names went through several mutations, being first germanized and then anglicized: **Bushong** can be traced to **Beauchamp, Lesher** to **LeSeur, Wescoe** to **Vesqueau, Dorney** to **Tournet, Wotring** to **Vautrin, Dellicker** to **De La Coeur.** Some, however, are little changed: **Bertolet, Boyer, DeLong, Erny, Flory, Levan, Sallade,** etc. Not only did many French names change but French blood was diluted by intermarriage with the Germans among whom they lived in Germany and America. There are hundreds of American families with names purely English in pronunciation and spelling which go back to a German or French ancestry. At the same time there are many German names which have remained unchanged after the lapse of more than two centuries but have become so familiar to American eyes and ears that they seem as thoroughly English as Smith and Brown.

All German surnames, like those of other nations, have meanings, although some names are so old or have such a peculiar dialectical form that their etymology escapes us. But the large majority can be explained and interpreted. However, some modern scholars have debunked all this and tried to kill the theory which attributed noble and dignified meanings to these early Teutonic names. These names were composed of two words which they say were combined merely to make a man's name, with no relationship or semantic connection or meaning, originally or ever. It is hard to believe and inconsistent, when all other names elsewhere had meanings, that these early German "given" names consisted only of meaningless sounds. Of course, we admit that later, perhaps after the ninth century, the meanings of personal names began to be lost. This is natural; we have also forgotten or lost the meanings of most of our names.

German surnames, whence came Pennsylvania German names, are derived from four main sources — patronymics, occupational, place and nicknames — very similar to those in many other countries. The uniformity is amazing. The earliest German surnames were derived from personal names or what we call now "first" or "Christian" names, which, however, go back to early pre-Christian times in Germany. We can class these as patronymics — taking the father's first name. These original names on which the family names were built were dignified and noble in meaning, manifesting the old German love of war, their beliefs in the ancient pagan mythology, and their ideals of life; they were not merely euphonious combinations. The Greeks did the very same thing, and many German names are almost literal translations of Greek names, although the German barbarians knew no Greek and met no Greeks, e.g. **Gottlieb** and **Theophilus,** both meaning 'friend of God'; **Dietrich** and **Democritus** 'ruler of the people,' etc. We still meet some of them today, 1500 or more years later, here in Pennsylvania and in the Lehigh Valley as surnames, little changed, e.g. (henceforth **ert** 'strong sword'; **Garman** and Pa. or the word **is** Pennsylvania) Pa. Ger. **Albright** from Ger. **Albrecht,** meaning 'of distinguished race'; **Bernhard** 'strong as a boar'; **Eckert** 'strong sword'; **Garman** 'spearman'; **Gebhard** and Pa. Ger. **Kephart** 'generous giver'; **Gerhard** 'strong spear'; **Hartman** 'strong man'; **Herbert** 'glory of the Army'; **Hildebrandt** 'battle sword'; **Hubert** 'bright of intellect'; **Reinhard** 'strong in council'; **Reinhold** 'ruler of council';

From these basic names many others were formed, often in shorter form. For example, the old personal name **Dietrich** was the source of over forty surnames in various forms.

Some family names were formed from only the first element of these personal names, as **Baer, Barr, Bair,** and **Bahr** from **Bernhard** (the first part comes from **Baer** 'a bear' — since local printers have no umlauted type, we indicate an umlaut by **e.**) **Hein** from **Heinrich, Kuhn** from **Kunrat, Ott** from **Ottmann,** etc. Then there are a large group of German family names which are formed also from the first part of personal names, as shown above, but are given a diminutive ending. (A diminutive means one of three things: '(1) a true diminutive, e. g. 'little boy'; (2) a term of endearment, e. g. 'dear little fellow'; and (3) a term of disparagement, e.g. ('little rascal.') One group of names was formed in this way with a diminutive suffix **l:** from **Burkhard** came **Burki** whence Pa. Ger. **Berky** or **Berkey** (Some derive the latter two from **Buerge** 'sponsor or patron.'); from **Eberhart, Ebi,** and later **Eby;** from **Ludger, Lichti,** and then **Lichty;** from **Stahal, Staeheli,** and Pa. Ger. **Stahley** and **Stehley;** etc.

Another group of names arose from abbreviations of the original names mentioned above, with another diminutive German suffix **izo,** later **z** or **s:** from **Bodomar** came **Butz** (Believe it or not); from **Dietrich, Dietz;** from **Friedrich, Fritz, Fritschi, Frietchie** (Remember Barbara Frietchie!), Pa. Ger. **Fritch, Fritsch,** and **Fritchman;** from **Gottfried, Goetz;** from **Heinrich, Heintz,** and Pa. Ga. **Heinz;** from **Kunrat, Kuntz,** and Pa. Ger. **Conrad, Koons** and **Kuhns;** from **Ludwig, Lutz;** from **Lantfried, Lantz;** etc. Of course with all these names you still find the originals side by side with the later forms; some never changed their names. Often too, those who came over more recently, who are not usually designated Pennsylvania Germans, retained the original form or anglicized it, without the intermediate step, e. g. **Schneider** or **Taylor,** but not **Snyder.** Many other German surnames were formed in the same way but with other suffixes or endings; these are too numerous to list here. Many patronymics were also formed by adding endings **-mann, -inger,** and **-ler,** e. g. **Bausman, Beidleman, Gehringer, Geissinger, Heintzelman, Hollinger,** etc.

Besides those names taken from purely German personal names, some, which are still found in Pennsylvania, were derived from Biblical characters and saints, but it was not until the 14th century that foreign names were used by the Germans for surnames. From **Nicholas** were formed **Clause, Clauss, Clauser, Clouse,** and **Clouser;** from **Matthias, Theiss,** etc.; from **Jacobus,** the Latin for **James,** we have **Jaeckel** and **Jaeckli,** whence came Pennsylvania German **Yeagy** and **Yeakel;** from **Sebastian, Bastian;** from **Florus, Flory;** from **Justus, Johst,** and P.G. **Yost.**

To be Continued

IM MOI

Im Moi do kumme
Die Bletter un Blumme;
Was iss es doch immer
im Moi so schee.
'S iss alles so frehlich,
Mer fiehlt sich so selich
Es macht eem 'n Freed
fer naus zu geh.

Die Veggel duhn singe,
Die Felder sin grie,
Die Fensemeis hupse
am Riggel dohie.
Es schtreichelt der Wind
so darrich die Beem,
Die Ieme, sie hole
der Hunnich schun heem.

Nau sin aa die Oschdere
schun verbei,
Un noch 'n paar Woche
watt's Pingschte sei
Die Fleddermeis kumme,
Die Moikeffer brumme,
Der Voggel baut's Nescht
un legt sei Oi.
'S iss alles blessierlich,
Un des iss nadierlich
Im frehliche, seliche,
glickliche Moi.

—John Birmelin

EN WUNSCH

Ach, meecht ich doch
en Schpetzli sei! —
Kaemt noh zu Dir,
mei Freind,
Mit Melodie vun owwe rei,
Aus Himmel siess gelehnt —
Un in Deim Haerz
waer ken Eck,
Des ich net fille deet.
Dei Druwwel datt
gengt all eweck,
Un Du hettscht ewich Freed.

—Die Buschamschel
(Alias Ralph Berky

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There is a large class of German surnames derived from the occupations of the individuals at the time family names were being assumed, after 1150. All their descendants were stuck with these names, no matter what they worked. Many of these remain unchanged even today in Pennsylvania, although their meanings are often forgotten. Some were anglicized — turned into English; so you can never be sure of the national origin of a person with an English name; for instance, Mr. **Baker** or his ancestors may have been Ger. **Beckers,** 'bakers'; or the **Taylors** may have been **Schneiders** or Pa. Ger. **Snyders;** or the **Hunters** were **Jaegers;** but the surname **Kaufman** is found much more frequently than its English equivalent, **Merchant.** The following are a few occupational names and their meanings: **Baumgartner** 'orchardist'; **Brunner** 'well - digger'; **Dreher, Drechsler, Trachsel, Trechsler,** and **Trexler** — all meaning the same thing and steps in the phonetic change — 'turner,' one who forms objects with a lathe — even with a potter's wheel; **Eisenhower,** one who hammers iron; **Fischer** and English **Fisher** had ancestors who did a lot of fishing; **Gerber,** of Swiss origin, became **Gerwer** in the Palatinate, and in Pa. **Garver** or **Carver** 'tanner'; **Gloeckner,** whence Pa. Ger. **Kleckner,** 'bell-ringer'; **Heilman** 'doctor'; **Huber** originated in Switzerland, becoming **Huwer** in the Palatinate and in Pa. Hoover 'one who owned a small farm — a **'Hube'; Jaeger,** whence Pa. Ger. **Yeager** 'hunter'; **Koehler** and **Kohler** 'charcoal-burner'; **Kuefer,** whence Pa. Ger. **Keefer, Kiefer,** and **Keifer,** 'barrel-maker'; **Maurer** 'mason'; **Metzgar** and **Metzger** 'butcher'; **Lehmann** 'vassal') **Leffler** 'a maker of spoons or a spooner' (I couldn't resist the pun); **Messerschmidt** 'one who makes knives' — oddly I have not heard the surname **Gabeler** or **Gaveler** a 'forkmaker'; **Propst** became Pa. Ger. **Brobst** 'provost,' one at the head of something; **Schaefer** with its variable spellings means 'shepherd'; **Schaffner** 'steward'; **Schenck** 'cup-bearer'; **Scherer** 'barber'; **Schreiber** 'writer or secretary' — one highly regarded when the big majority were illiterate; **Schreiner,** which is the Pa. Ger. word for 'carpenter,' has a more limited meaning in High German, 'a joiner'; **Schuetz,** whence Pa. Ger. **Sheets** is 'a shooter or archer'; **Schultz** 'mayor'; **Siegrist** 'sexton'; **Spengler** 'tinsmith'; **Steinmetz** 'stone-cutter'; **Wagner** 'a maker of wagons'; **Wannemaker** 'a maker of tubs'; **Weber** 'weaver'; **Wirtz** 'landlord'; **Ziegler** 'a brick- or tile-maker'; **Zimmerman** 'carpenter'; etc.

The third major division of family names are those derived from place names, denoting whence they came. These names could be acquired only after one moved from one's native spot, e.g. **Herr** 'Mr.' **Berlin** could not be so called as long as he lived in Berlin and **Herr Deutscher** 'Mr. German,' which later became **Deischer,** must have been living outside of Germany when acquiring his name, or else they could not have been distinguished from all the rest who lived there. Another explanation is that people with names of countries or cities for surnames had made a single trip to those places and were forever talking about it. The names of other countries were the source of family names: **Beyer** — this is spelled variably; those in or from Germany spelled it **Bayer, Beyer,** or **Byer;** in France mostly **Boyer;** many of these were Huguenots — 'a Bavarian'; **Oestreicher** which I recently saw spelled **Estreicher,** 'an Austrian'; **Schwab,** whence Pa. Ger. **Swope,** 'a Swabian'; **Schweitzer** 'a Swiss'; etc.

Many families got their names from towns, villages, and districts in Switzerland and South Germany: **Berner** became Pa. Ger. **Barner** 'from Berne'; **Biemensdoerfer** came from Biemensdorf (**Dorf** means 'a village'; **Doerfer** is 'a villager'); similarly **Detweiler** or **Detwiler** 'from Detweil'; **Diefenderfer** had lived in Tiefendorf which means 'a village in the lowlands'; similarly **Flueckinger** and **Frick;** **Haldeman** 'from Halden,' a common name for a village in Switzerland; **Hofstetter** 'from Hofstadt'; **Eschelman** 'from Aeschi,' a village; **Longecker** 'from Longeck,' a village in the Canton of Berne; **Mellinger** 'from Melling'; **Oberholtzer** 'from Oberholtz,' which in turn means 'a high wooded spot'; **Schollenberger** 'from Schollenberg.' Some names came from topography — the description of the locality: **Bach, Bacher, Bachman,** and **Beck** all lived near a **Bach** 'brook'; **Rohrbach** lived near a brook with reeds **(Rohre);** Breitenbach 'broad brook'; Brubacher 'from Brubach'; Kiebach means a 'brook frequented by cows'; Katzenbach was a brook where a lot of cats hung around; Berger 'lives on the mountain — a mountaineer'; Muhlenberg 'the mountain where the mills are'; Imboden 'lived in the lowlands'; Imhof 'in the yard'; etc.

The fourth major source of German family names was nicknames. Under this heading we shall include surnames taken from signs which were painted not only on taverns and shops but even on houses to identify them, since few people in the Middle Ages could read or count. These usually were animals, although some other objects might be depicted: **Baer,** with its variable spelling mentioned above, 'bear'; **Baum** 'tree'; **Bieber** 'beaver'; **Faust** 'fist'; **Fuchs** 'fox'; **Haas, Hase, Hause,** and **Hauze** 'rabbit'; **Hahn** 'rooster'; **Helm** 'helmet'; **Kalb,** whence Pa. Ger. **Kulp,** 'calf'; **Krebs** 'crab'; **Mensch** 'person'; **Ochs** 'ox'; **Vogel,** whence Pa. Ger. **Fogel** 'bird,' with the diminutives **Feagley, Fegeley,** and **Fegely** 'little bird'; **Wolf; Schlegel** 'sledgehammer'; etc. Under this heading we could include **Leffel** 'spoon' and **Gabel** 'fork,' spelled **Gable** by some; however, **Messer** 'knife' is not common as a surname.

Some names were derived from titles, like **Bischof** 'bishop'; **Engel** 'angel'; **Hertzog** 'duke'; **Kaiser** 'emperor'; **Koenig** 'king'; **Ritter** 'knight'; etc. However, these names were acquired, not because they held these offices, but because the holders of these names played that part in the Miracle Plays which dramatized some Biblical story, the common form of entertainment in those days.

Other names showed some personal characteristics or peculiarities, physical defects, or traits: **Duerr** and Pa. Ger. **Derr** 'dry' and 'thin,' anglicized to **Dry; Frei,** whence Pa. Ger. **Frey** or **Fry** 'free'; **Gut** and **Guth** anglicized to **Good; Hoch** often found in its English form **High; Jung** translated **Young: Kahl** 'bald'; **Klein,** with its variable spellings, 'small'; **Krause** or **Krauss** 'curly'; **Krumbein,** with its variable spellings, meant 'bow-legged'; **Kurtz** 'short'; **Lang** and its anglicized form **Long; Lebengut** anglicized to **Livingood; Rau** and **Rauch** 'rough'; **Rothermel** from **rot** 'red' and **Aermel** 'sleeve'; **Rothrock** 'red coat'; **Essig** and Pa. Ger. **Essick** 'vinegar'; **Sauer, Sauers, Sauerwine,** and **Krebs** 'crab' must have been cross and crabbed, with a sour disposition; **Wenig** and Pa. Ger. **Wennig** 'small'; etc. Some because of their complexion or because they constantly wore a certain color of clothing got such names as **Braun** 'brown'; 'red'; **Schwartz** 'black'; **Weiss** 'white'; etc.

Many other surnames have originated in sobriquets or nicknames, epithets of contempt and ridicule, or from incidents or accidents which happened to the original bearers. Such names are numerous, humorous, and even at times uncomplimentary, but their meanings have often been forgotten or lost. A classical example of this is the surname **Gift,** frequent in Berks Co. In English a gift is something desirable but these are of German extraction where they are 'poison.' We can easily imagine how some ridiculous happening or foolish act or saying would confer a nickname upon a person by which he would be known and called through life, and which would even descend to his children. Here are a few which I have seen in print (I have not manufactured any): **Bissell** (sweepers) 'a little'; **Dreissigacker** 'thirty acres'; **Druckenbrod** 'dry bread'; **Eppes** 'something'; **Ganskopf** 'goose head'; the original name of Gutenberg, the famous inventor of the printing-press, circa 1450, was **Gensfleisch** 'goose meat'; **Holtzapfel** 'wild apple'; **Kleintop** 'small pot' from **klein** and **topf** 'pot'; Pa. Ger. **Negley** from Swiss **Naegili** 'little nail'; Pa. Ger. **Nissley** from Swiss **Nuessli** 'little nut'; **Stoltzfuss** — a common name in Lancaster County — 'proud foot' (even the English form is found as **Proudfoot**); **Weissbrod,** 'white bread'; **Hoffeditz,** 'with teats as big as a crock' or 'Dietz who made crocks' (dialect German **Hafen,** crock or pot); **Neunzig** 'ninety'; **Teufel** 'devil'; **Staub** 'dust'; **Lauderm** 'pure milk'; **Taglang** 'all day long'; **Fingerhut** 'thimble'; **Faul** when applied to a person means 'lazy', but when to an object "rotten"; etc.

(To Be Concluded)

ALLE SADDE WADDE

Wadde, Wadde, so viel Sadde!
Deel vun do un deel vun dadde;
Deel, die sin so wiescht verdreht,
Ass sie niemand meh verschteht.

Since Professor Beam, compiler of a Pennsylvania German Dictionary, has sent out the last questionnaire, a goodly number of readers has joined his corps of co - workers. He hopes for a similar response to the following questionnaire:

1. **What is your version of:**
Es hot mol gereggert, die Decher drobse noch.
Ich hab mol eeni ghatt; ich wott ich hett sie noch.

2. **How would you say in P.G.?** The cow is with calf. The mother is expecting.

3. **Please send us all the weather lore you remember.** Here's a sample: Wann der Wind vun Owed kummt, noh hen mer schee Wedder der naegscht Daag.
Wann der Wind vun Mariye kummt, noh hen mer drieb Wedder un verleicht wennich Regge.
Wann er vun der Natt kummt, noh watt's kelder.
Wann er vun der Sud kummt, noh gebt's Regge.

4. **In which form have you heard?**
Datt draus am Wattshaus, schdeht die Maad haus,
Schdreckt ihr Bee naus un gloppt die Peif aus!

5. **How many P.G. place names can you add to this list?**
Can you locate them on a map and explain their origins?
Bender Daal, Dunkel Busch, Gabel Barrick, Bech Hiwwel, Schultze Hiwwel, Grappe Schdettel, Schwatzer Gaul, Glappbord Schdettel.

6. **How many tongue twisters can you recall in P. G.?**
Send us your favorites! Ever hear these?
Siwwe Schwalme schweewle iwwer es Schinackers Scheier.
Groosi Schloose schlagge Schlange un scheckiche Schof dot.

7. **How many types of shovels can you name and describe in the dialect?** Please send us a sketch of each kind.

8. **How many counting-out rimes do you remember from your childhood?** These?
Gnippes, gnappes, Holler Schdock . . .
Eens, zwee drei, Maad, hol Wei . . .

9. **What does this expression mean?** Es iss drechdich gut!

10. Here are some of the words not found in Lambert's Pennsylvania German Dictionary, as recorded by the Rev. Thomas R. Brendle. What do they mean? How are they used?
a. Essichschling b. Schlutzer c. schneckerich d. schdumbefescht e. Hinnerschdettel f. Schdich (a trick in cards) g. schdierich h. Schwarrneeder i. Silwerglitt j. Sunneblicker k. unplazierlich l. Unwedder or Uuwedder? m. bekeschdiche n. ferrummeniert o. ferscheecht p. fersehne q. fersuffe r. Gladbix s. forreddich t. Lechaa Wacke

(Note — Our word - buffs who delight in finding words not entered in Lambert's P.G. Dictionary often fail to recognize Lambert's system of spelling. Most of the above words are actually in Lambert's Dictionary: b. **Schlutzer, der,** baby's pacifier. h. **Schwarrneeder,** see **Schwaernneeter,** der; i. **Silwerglitt,** see **Silwerglett, die;** k. **unplazierlich,** see **unblessierlich;** l. **Unwedder,** see **Unwetter, es;** m. **bekeschdiche** is in Lambert. Relate this to Koscht; n. **ferrummeniert,** instead of prefix **fer** look under **ver;** o. **ferscheecht** you will find under **ver;** p. **fersehne,** under **ver.** q. **fersuffe,** see **versoffe;** r. **Gladbix,** see **Glattbichs, die,** smooth-bored rifle; s. **forreddich,** see **vorraedich.** t. Lechaa Wacke, for Lechaweki, Indian place name, denoting "where the Indian path makes a fork," below present-day Bethlehem. Also name of spring on slope of South or Lehigh Mountain near Bethlehem.—P.A.B.)

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10. Here are some of the words not found in Lambert's Pennsylvania German Dictionary, as recorded by the Rev. Thomas R. Brendle. What do they mean? How are they used?
a. Essichschling b. Schlutzer c. schneckerich d. schdumbefescht e. Hinnerschdettel f. Schdich (a trick in cards) g. schdierich h. Schwarrneeder i. Silwerglitt j. Sunneblicker k. unplazierlich l. Unwedder or Uuwedder? m. bekeschdiche n. ferrummeniert o. ferscheecht p. fersehne q. fersuffe r. Gladbix s. forreddich t. Lechaa Wacke

(Note — Our word - buffs who delight in finding words not entered in Lambert's P.G. Dictionary often fail to recognize Lambert's system of spelling. Most of the above words are actually in Lambert's Dictionary: b. **Schlutzer, der,** baby's pacifier. h. **Schwarrneeder,** see **Schwaernneeter,** der; i. **Silwerglitt,** see **Silwerglett, die;** k. **unplazierlich,** see **unblessierlich;** l. **Unwedder,** see **Unwetter, es;** m. **bekeschdiche** is in Lambert. Relate this to Koscht; n. **ferrummeniert,** instead of prefix **fer** look under **ver;** o. **ferscheecht** you will find under **ver;** p. **fersehne,** under **ver.** q. **fersuffe,** see **versoffe;** r. **Gladbix,** see **Glattbichs, die,** smooth-bored rifle; s. **forreddich,** see **vorraedich.** t. Lechaa Wacke, for Lechaweki, Indian place name, denoting "where the Indian path makes a fork," below present-day Bethlehem. Also name of spring on slope of South or Lehigh Mountain near Bethlehem.—P.A.B.)

German and Pennsylvania German Surnames

By DAVID B. KAUFMAN

(Conclusion)

The names brought to Pennsylvania by the Germans from the upper Rhine valley and Switzerland underwent some changes in form in their new environment, as we pointed out earlier was the case with the Huguenots also. Some of these mutations resulted from forces over which they had no control and happened immediately. When they landed at Philadelphia they were required to register and take an oath of allegiance and another of abjuration. The latter means they promised not to support anyone trying to overthrow the ruling house. Those male passengers who were not ill were marched to some designated spot and official — usually at the court house — to sign these lists, if they could write their names; otherwise an English-speaking clerk took down the names as he heard them or thought he heard them, which he spelled phonetically and made light of spelling difficulties. Thus many German names received an English form but this often resulted in terrible monstrosities of names. For instance, we find **Georg Heinrich Mertz** spelled **Jurig Henrich March, Georg Born** changed to **Yerrick Burry, Hendrick Sculps** for **Henrich Schultz, Listen Walter** for **Lichtenwallner, Struhgofler** for **Schreiber,** etc. Similarly we find the same name written **Froehlich** and **Frailick, Huber** and **Huffer, Krautz** and **Grauce, Kuntz** and **Koones,** etc. Many retained this spelling. Loose and sloppy spelling accounts for many names, thus obliterating their origins. In earlier days there was little effort by anyone to be accurate and consistent. Even Shakespeare wrote his name several ways. So do not try to account for every letter in a name by some phonetic law; be satisfied with a reasonable facsimile.

Often the change was gradual and was made by the bearer of the name himself; some went through several mutations before reaching the current form. For example, **Krehbiel** became successively **Krehbill, Kriebel, Grebill, Grabill,** and **Graybill;** so Baer gave us **Bear, Bare, Bair,** and **Bahr. Graf** 'count' became **Graef, Graff, Grave, Groff, Groft, Graft,** and **Grove.** But the various branches of the family did not change the spelling of their name at the same time, if at all — some were more conservative and stable and old-fashioned. Almost invariably it was the rural relatives who retained the old forms; the greatest name changes occurred among the city cousins — the city dwellers were more subject to English influences. So today we still find the various forms, even though they had a common immigrant ancestor.

The reasons for altering one's name were for the sake of simplification and brevity, or to make it more pronounceable and euphonious, or to conceal one's origin and gain social stature. For the latter reason some even assumed Latin names; they were ashamed of their original names and thought by such a change they could acquire more dignity, e.g. **Sartorius** is the Latin name for **Taylor** who may have been a German **Schneider; Piscator** is Latin for an English **Fisher** or Ger. **Fischer.** From **Klein** came **Kline, Cline, Small,** and **Little. Krumbein** 'bow-legged' is found as **Krumbine, Grumbein,** and **Grumbine** but never **Bowlegged** because it would not be very complimentary and its meaning obvious today; besides it would sound awkward; however, the British have a word for this: **Cruikshank.** Oscar Kuhns (**The German and Swiss Settlements of Colonial Pennsylvania,** N. Y., 1901, p. 239) tells of two brothers in Lancaster County, one named **Zimmerman** and the other **Carpenter.** The one had translated his name into English.

Many of the above changes in orthography are easily recognizable but there are others that are not so obvious and leave no trace of their German origin, e.g. **Rhoades** comes from **Roth; Minich** and **Minnick** come from Ger. **Mensch** 'a person.' Possibly most contemporary Pennsylvania Germans are unaware of these name mutations and relationships but they can be proved by tracing them in church records and public documents.

There were four ways that German names were changed in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in America. One was through error, which we have already discussed. A second method was by direct translation of a German name into English, where an English word existed and was not offensive — recall what we said about "bow-legged." Thus **Fuchs** became **Fox, Hoch** became **High, Schumacher** became **Shoemaker, Zimmerman** became **Carpenter, Lebengut** became **Livingood,** etc. **Feather** at first sight seems an English name, but many of these are Pennsylvania Germans whose name originally was **Fetter.** (It is possible that this is only a phonetic spelling of High German **Vetter** 'cousin', since **v** is pronounced like **f,** and that its meaning was mistaken by the one who first anglicized this word.) The third way German name changes were made on American soil was by English spelling of German sounds — phonetically. We have talked about this previously without categorizing the phonetic changes, but they can be classified. Many names fall into this group but it is most difficult to explain because it is quite technical; it is the philologist's field. These changes did not take place at random but followed a definite pattern and definite empirical rules. We shall point out only a few of the easiest and most obvious phenomena:

Ger. **J** became English **Y,** since it is so pronounced in German: **Jung** became **Young; Johst** became **Yost; Jaeckel** became **Yaekel** and later **Yeakel; Jaeger** became **Yaeger** and then **Yeager; Joder** became **Yoder.** The name **Iobst,** originally spelled **Jobst,** should have followed this pattern and be **Yobst,** as it is pronounced. In the middle of the last century Frederick T. Iobst, first burgess of Emmaus, changed it to its present form which is a puzzle phonetically.

K, C, and **G** often were interchanged, e.g. **Kline** and **Cline; Kephart, Gebhard,** and **Capehart; Kreider** and **Grider; Kohl** and **Cole; Kuebler** and **Givler,** etc.

Many German names containing **ch** changed to **gh,** e.g. **Licht** to **Light,** although this is also a translation; **Albrecht** to **Albright; Schlachter** to **Slaughter;** etc. Similarly names containing **bach** became **baugh,** e.g. **Bacher** to **Baugher, Herbach** to **Harbaugh,** etc.

Sch was simplified to **sh** or **s** as in **Schlegel** to **Slagle, Schlatter** to **Slatter, Schneider** to **Snyder,** etc.

Since **b** was often pronounced by the Pennsylvania Germans like **v,** we have the following changes: **Gerber** to **Garver** or **Carver, Huber** to **Hoover, Schnaebele** to **Snavely,** etc.

In Pennsylvania German, as in almost all languages, **er** became **ar:** In English **Clerk** became **Clark, Derby** became **Darby;** so the German **Gerber** changed to **Garver, Herbach** to **Harbaugh, Merkley** to **Markley, Hertzell** to **Hartzell,** etc. But remember, we said that all these forms may still be found, as some branches of these families retained the original spellings of their names. For lack of space and because we may become too technical for our readers we must terminate this discussion of phonetic changes. For those who wish to go into this in more detail, in one book, we suggest consulting the appendix of the work by Kuhns mentioned above.

The fourth way names changed was by analogy. When an English-looking name could not be fashioned by the methods described, often a name resembling the German in appearance was substituted, as **Rush** for **Roesch,** and **Richards** for **Reichert,** etc.

If there are any errors in our interpretation of the meanings of sur-names, we shift the responsibility — at least in 95% of the cases — to the dozen or more authorities we consulted. We tried to be factual and scholarly. We also wish to remind you, as you no doubt realize, that this is not a comprehensive study; lack of space and time is my best excuse.

Der Juni

Der Juni so lieblich uns lacht,
Mit Rose in haerrlicher
Pracht
Die Rose, sie bliehe,
Im Sunnelicht gliehe,
Un dufte sogaar in der Nacht.

Bei Rose sin Danne denewe,
Was muss mer sie zimberlich
hewe;
Un Rose zu breche,
Do kann mer sich schteche,
Un Schmaerze, die kann
mer erlewe.

Der Breiticham holt sich die
Braut,
Im rosiche Juni gedraut;
Un Hochzich muss sei,
Mit Yubel debei!
Un alles watt luschdich un
laut.

Sie gehne ins Lewe zu nei,
Un hoffe recht glicklich zu
sei;
Mer winscht ne vun Haerze
Ken Danne, ken Schmaerze,
Yuscht liebliche Rose debei.

—John Birmelin

JUNI

Der Juni iss for common viel schenner wie der Mai. 'S Wetter iss noh meh gsettelt, un's bleibt Summer. 'S iss en iwweraus liebliche Zeit, so graad vor der Hoiet, wann alles so grie un frisch iss, wu mer hieguckt, un's Graas un die Crops so schtark waxe, dass mer meent mer deet's sehne un heere. Waer noh die Zeit hot fer schpaziere zu geh ins Land naus, odder naus zu faahre im Weggel odder uff der Trolley, der kann sich 's bescht verluschdiere an daere herrliche Welt.

Awwer selli schee Zeit waehrt net lang. Wann mol der lengscht Daag kummt, iss es Graas ausgewaxe, un noh geht's ans Hoimache. Sell iss en Zeit, wu die Bauere arrig bissi halt, abaddich wann sie noh noch's Welschkann tende misse dezwische. Wann's noh noch Reggewetter nei gebt, sell halt sie arrig viel uff.

'S Hoimache iss freilich nimmi wie's vor Alters waar. Do hen sie all's Graas mit der Sens gemeht, un's hot alsemol drei, vier Woche genumme, bis 's Hoi all eigfaahre waar. 'S aerscht hen sie lauter deitsche Sense geyust; noh hen sie als maryets un middaags ghockt un gedengelt, dass es en Luscht waar. Mer iss als frieh naus, eb die Sunn uff waar, un hot alsemol en gansi Schtunn gemeht vor Breckfescht. Noch sellem hot mer widder gschafft bis neine odder halwer zehe, dann Iss's Neinuhrschtick naus gebrocht warre — Butterbrot, Rettich, Zwiwwle, alsemol aa Waffle un so Dinge. Noch Middaag hot's als en Ruhschtunn gewwe; noh hot mer blaudere kenne un schlofe, wammer net dengle odder schleife hot misse. Oweds iss off gschafft warre, bis die Schtanne rausgeguckt hen.

Heitzudaag iss 's gans annerscht. Do watt alles mit Maschiene gemeht, except in de Fensecke un wu's zu nass iss in de Schwemm. Wann's Hoi derr iss, watt's mit Geilsreche zammegschleeft, un beim Ablaade misse aa die Geil draa. Do hen sie grosse Hoke, wu so'n gleeni Lood schier uff eemol nuff hewe un in der Baahre schmeisse. Sell iss ken Fun, in so me Hoibaahre zu schteh un's Hoiwegzuschaffe, wann's selle Weg neikummt. Sell macht em alsemol schwitze, bis mer ken druckner Faadem meh an sich hot. Wann awwer noh die Aerwet gschafft iss un mer kann in der Damm geh schwimme, un dutt noh druckne Kleeder aa, noh fiehlt mer wie neigebore.

Alde Bauereschprich

Draewwle die Immense viel rumher,
Dann fehlt's de Felder an Wasser sehr.

• • •

Kummt uff Johannes (24.)
Regge bei,
Dann watt's en nasse Aernzeit sei.

• • •

Juni kiehl un an Sunneschei aarm,
Macht em Bauer net extra waarm.

Unser Pennsylvanisch-Deitscher Kalenner.
Allentown, Pa. 1905.

Wu die Tomaettese herkumme

Die Tomaettese odder Bummeranse warre noch net so arrig lang in daere Gegend gereest. Der Kalennermann weess noch gut, wie er en kleener Bu waar, dass mer so en Blans net im Gaarde ghatt hot; mer hot nix gewisst devun.

Die aerschte Tomaettese in dem Weltdeel sin gerzogge warre vun Sume, wu en Traeveler bei sich ghatt hot, wu im Friehyaahr vun 1827 amme Wattshaus in Frankstown, Blair County, welt in de Alleghenies drowwe, iwwernacht gschtoppt hot. Er hot em Watt seim kleene Meedel e wennich vun de Sume gewwe; die hot en geblanst un die Blanse gut getend, bis die Tomaettese zeitich waare. Noh hot ihre Memm emol deel gekocht un versucht. Die Nochbere hen dem Ding's aerscht net recht gedraut; sie hen gemeent die Bummeranse waere giftich. Sie hen awwer der Wattsfraa nix gschatt un hen gut gschmackt, un 's hot net lang gewaehrt, do hen all die Leit datt rum Bummeranse gereest un gesse. Sell Meedel hot Matilde Brotherline gheesse; wie sie gross waar, hot sie eener John Barr gheiert un in East Hollidaysburg gewohnt. So hot der Dr. Horne als verzehlt.

'S waar de letz Kopp

Hollo, George! Was hoscht geduh, dass sie dich vor der Mayor nemme?
George: Der Kopp hawwich gschittelt.
Was, der Kopp gschittelt? Awwer fer des kammer doch niemand schtrofe!
George: Ya, doch! Es waar em Polies sei Kopp, wu ich gschittelt hab!